

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A form-fill-seal packaging machine has, between blank feeder and loader assemblies thereof, on the one hand, and an indexing mandrel spider upon which the cartons are bottom-closed and-sealed, on the other hand, another indexing spider upon which micro-organisms in the interior of the carton sleeve, particularly upon the inside surface thereof, are rendered non-viable. Each of the arms of this spider consists of a device and angle-form, carton sleeve guides distributed parallelly around the device at the corners of a square co-axial with the device and of a size fittingly to receive a carton sleeve. Each device includes an excimer UV-C-lamp which is water-cooled. The lamp includes an elongate support member in the form of a rod of which an inner end is fixed to the hub of the spider and of which the outer end may optionally have a mandrel cap fixed thereto. The mandrel cap contains conduits leading to a nozzle which is at the outer extremity of the device and is co-axial with the rod. The nozzle emits a spray of hydrogen peroxide solution substantially perpendicularly to the axis of the rod throughout 360° around that axis.